Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti has intimated that there is no declines in the standard of teaching in Navodaya Vidyalayas in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Mumbai High Natural Gas Plant

2953. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal to provide Mumbai High Natural Gas to BSES Thermal Plant at Dahaun has been received by the Government; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Natural Gas

2954. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether natural gas being produced in the country is not being fully utilised;

(b) if so, the total percentage of natural gas utilised in the country upto March, 1997;

(c) the percentage out of the remaining gas assessed for its utilisation;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any time bound scheme so as to utilise this estimated unutilised gas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) The percentage of natural gas utilised in the country as of March 1997, is around 93.5%

(c) to (e) The remaining gas is flared on account of:

(i) technical requirements of field operations.

(ii) gas from isolated structures not integrated with the main gas grid as it is economically unviable.

(iii) less offtake by consumers; and

(iv) lack of compression and transportation facilities.

ONGC and OIL have taken various steps for creation of additional gas collection and compression facilities as a result of which flaring has been reduced from 30% in the 7th Plan period to around 6.5% currently. Efforts are being made to further minimise the quantity of gas being flared.

[English]

Share of Profits

2955. SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to give its share of profits to oil companies from the oilfields and exploration blocks which were given to the private sector in 1994; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and how much amount is proposed to be given to each oil company ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) No such decision has been taken by the Government.

Earthquake in Madhya Pradesh

2956. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether departmental houses, some headquarters, offices and units of defence were damaged in the earthquake which occured on May 22, 1997 in Narmada valley of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any relief and assistance work have been carried out by the Army in towns and villages affected due to earthquake, if so, the details of relief works carried out.

(d) whether the production in many defence units have come to standstill and if so, to what extent the production in those units have been affected;

(e) whether he and Chief of any of the three wings

of Defence forces visited and inspected the places and towns; and

(f) if so, the names of persons who conducted the inspection alongwith the date of inspection and places inspected by them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is enclosed.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

There are four Ordnance Factories located in Jabalpur. Out of these two factories and their estates namely Ordnance Factory, Khamaria and Gun Carriage Factory, Jabalpur suffered damages of approximately Rs. 94 Crores. About one hundred (100) persons of Ordnance Factory, Khamaria were injured in the earthquake of which seven (7) were injured seriously. In the two other Ordnance factories at Jabalpur viz. Vehicle Factory and Grey Iron Foundry, the effect of the earthquake was minor. Several offices of the Directorate General of Quality Assurance located at Jabalpur and Khamaria were damaged due to the earthquake. The expenditure on their repair is expected to be of the order of approximately Rs. 79.80 lakhs. Air armament Inspection Wing, Directorate General of Quality Assurance building and domestic camps at Khamaria, Jabalpur were also affected by the earthquake.

2. In the wake of the earthquake at Jabalpur, the Army's assistance was rendered to the civil authorities as under :

(a) one column was despatched to the site for spot assistance;

(b) on request from civil administration, 30 other Ranks donated blood at Medical College, Jabalpur;

(c) one surgical team was despatched to Victoria Hospital for assistance;

(d) Water was provided to Medical College through trucks, trolleys and water trucks;

(e) two medical teams were provided for medical aid, 10 columns were despatched which were tasked to provide medical aid, relief and salvage operations, food and water.

Wet Leasing of Aircraft

2957. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for Air India to go for Wet Leasing of Aircraft;

(b) the criteria adopted for selection of Carib Jet;

(c) whether any Economic Evaluation done in this regard;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the total loss suffered by Air-India by operating wet leased Aircraft of Carib Jet ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) Air India had wet leased aircraft to provide growth and expend its market presence until the company was able to acquire its own aircraft.

(b) Based on the offers received in 1994 from owners/operators of the aircraft, Air India selected Caribjet which met airlines' wet lease requirement at that time.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The estimated loss is about 201.57 crores. Air India terminated wet-lease agreement with Caribjet w.e.f. 4.9.96 due to violation of Civil Aviation requirements in the operating of its aircraft.

Shukla Committee

2958. LT. GEN. PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Shukla Committee set-up by the all India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) has recommended higher pay and better service conditions for the teachers of technical institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c) All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has not yet approached the Government of India in the matter of Shukla Committee Report.